

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 10484

PASS: OES FOR CRAWFORD, OSTP, COMMERCE FOR PETERSEN,
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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: MEETING OF OECD JOINT CSTP-INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
WORKING PARTY (JWP) ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRU-
CTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY, MAR 29-30, 1977.

REF: STATE 067577

1. SUMMARY. SCHEIDEMANN (FRG) REELECTED CHAIRMAN. JWP AND SECRETARIAT WOULD WELCOME PADWO AS VICE-CHAIRMAN, IF AVAILABLE. US INTERVENTIONS, BASED ON REFTEL. FOUND IMMEDIATE AND STRONG SUPPORT. AS RESULT, SECRETARIAT HAS ADDITIONAL TASK OF DRAFTING OUTLINE OF REPORT, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO INTRODUCTORY SECTION DEALING WITH CONCEPTUAL APPROACH (OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, METHOD). FOR THIS SECTION, IDEAS ARE REQUESTED FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS BY END APRIL, AND DRAFT OUTLINE WILL BE CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT BY END MAY. NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED EARLY FALL 1977, TO BE CONFIRMED SUBJECT TO TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE ELECTION FORMALITIES, THE DIRECTOR FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY (BECKLER) MADE A MUCH APPRECIATED INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, DURING WHICH HE EMPHASIZED (A) THE POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE JWP ACTIVITY TO MEMBER-COUNTRY INTERESTS (B) THE NEED TO ASSOCIATE THE JWP STUDY WITH OTHER OECD ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY THE CSTP PROGRAM ON "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IN THE NEW ECONOMIC CONTEXT" AND THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE PROGRAM ON "FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES".

3. CASE STUDY ON THE FOUNDRY INDUSTRY - PRELIMINARY NOTE, DSTI/SPR/77.12 - DSTI/IND/77.20. NOBODY WAS HAPPY WITH THIS STUDY, WHICH WILL BE REVISED AND REORGANIZED IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER MATERIAL TO BE RECEIVED FROM MEMBER-COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARIAT WAS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS CASE STUDY IN THE LIGHT OF SUCH FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE.

4. STUDIES OF TRENDS AND PROSPECTS. SO FAR, THE SECRETARIAT HAS RECEIVED (A) MICRO-PROCESSING (US) (B) TEXTILES (UK, FRANCE) (C) UNMANNED FACTORY FOR BATCH PRODUCTION (JAPAN). REMAINING STUDIES LISTED IN ANNEX TO SUMMARY RECORD OF SEPTEMBER 1976 MEETING EXPECTED NEAR FUTURE.

5. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE INNOVATION PROCESS. SO FAR ONLY THE US (BATTELLE) STUDY ON INTEGRATED CIRCUITS HAS BEEN RECEIVED, AND THE SECRETARIAT IS AWAITING FURTHER INPUT BEFORE MOVING TO THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THIS PART OF THE EXERCISE. NATIONAL STUDIES IN THIS FIELD, PARTICULARLY FROM THE US, WOULD BE APPRECIATED - WITH A DEADLINE OF MID-END MAY.

6. DSTI/SPR/77.13 - DSTI/IND/77.21 - REGULATIONS AND THE ADAPTATION OF TECHNOLOGY - A STATE OF THE ART REVIEW. UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS DOCUMENT WAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED ALL ROUND, BOTH FOR CONTENT AND PRESENTATION. TO BEGIN WITH, IT IS RESTRICTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO US PUBLISHED LITERATURE, AND IS MOREOVER CONCERNED WITH POLLUTION STANDARDS PLUS OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO OTHER AREAS (E.G. FOOD AND DRUG ADDITIVES). THE NATURE OF THE DOCUMENT IS NOT EXPLAINED CLEARLY EITHER IN THE COVER-NOTE OR IN THE TEXT, AND THE PAPER, AFTER SOME SEVERELY CRITICAL DISCUSSION, WAS SENT BACK TO THE DRAWING-BOARD. ONCE AGAIN, FURTHER INPUT FROM MEMBER-COUNTRIES, (OTHER THAN THE US AND FRANCE) IS REQUESTED.

7. AS STATED IN THE SUMMARY, THE US BASED ITS INTERVENTIONS ON THE GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL, AND INSISTED - WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE UK, FRANCE, ITALY, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS AND SWITZERLAND - ON THE NEED FOR (A) TAKING GENERAL STOCK OF THE SITUATION, I.E. PROGRESS, (B) ENSURING THAT THE PROGRAM BE GIVEN A PROPER FRAMEWORK,

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MAKING CLEAR THE OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHOD OF THE
OVERALL STUDY AND ITS COMPONENT PARTS, (C) INDICATING
CLEARLY AT THE OUTSET THE POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE TO GOVER-
NMENTS OF EXAMINING THE HYPOTHESIS THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS
AN IDENTIFIABLE ROLE TO PLAY IN THE STRUCTURAL ADAPTA-
TION OF INDUSTRY (D) DESCRIBING OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFE-
CT THE STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY AND THAT IN SOME CASES
UNDULY CONSTRAIN THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGY.

8. ON A UK PROPOSAL, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THE
SECRETARIAT, WITH THE HELP OF THE JWP, ATTEMPT A FIRST
DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE KIND OF REPORT EXPECTED TO DERIVE
FROM THE ACTIVITY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THIS, FOR THE
US, HAD TO BE TIED TO THE WORK-PLAN AS ALREADY AGREED,
INDICATING CLEARLY WHICH PARTS WERE CONNECTED. THE
WHOLE OF THE NEXT MORNING - I.E. UNTIL THE END OF THE
MEETING - WAS THUS TURNED OVER TO A ROUND-TABLE BRAINS-
TORMING SESSION, DURING WHICH IT RAPIDLY BECAME APPARENT
THAT JWP MEMBERS WERE MOVING RAPIDLY TO THE US POSITION
THAT UNLESS A SUITABLE CONCEPTUAL APPROACH WERE FORMU-
LATED, THE PROJECT WOULD REMAIN IN A STATE OF CONFUSION
FOR THE REST OF ITS EXISTENCE. SIGNIFICANTLY THE DIREC-
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TOR, WHO CAME IN TOWARDS THE END OF THE SESSION, MADE ANOTHER STATEMENT, OF WHICH THE FIRST WORDS WERE TO ASSERT THE REQUIREMENT FOR A SOUND CONCEPTUAL APPROACH AND OVERALL FRAMEWORK IF THE STUDY WAS TO BE OF ANY USE TO GOVERNMENTS.

9. THE SECRETARIAT IS THEREFORE ON NOTICE TO PRODUCE A DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE REPORT BY END JUNE, BASED ON ITS OWN THINKING AND ON IDEAS CONTRIBUTED BY JWP MEMBERS, THE LATTER TO BE IN BY END APRIL. MISSION SCIENCE OFFICE HAS ALREADY HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT AND WILL BE WORKING INFORMALLY TO INFLUENCE THIS ESSENTIAL STAGE OF THE REDIRECTION OF WORK, AND WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL ORIENTATION THAT THE US WOULD NOW LIKE TO GIVE TO THIS ACTIVITY.

10. DETAILED PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE CSTP AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JWP, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SEP/OCT 1977. TURNER

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